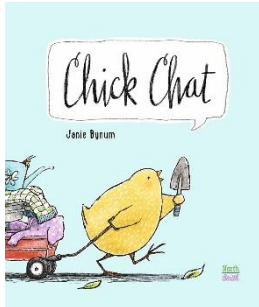


21 Favorites of 2021

Books read & loved by your Children's Librarian in 2021
Click on the title to request the book from the library!

Four Favorite Zoom Storytime Reads

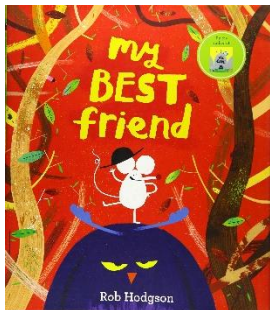
Zoom Storytime isn't quite the same as in-person storytime, but we made the best of it anyway! Here are four of the fun books we read together virtually:



[Chick Chat](#)

by Janie Bynum

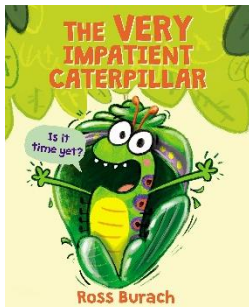
This chatty chick reminds me of every chatty child ever! The indignant look Chick gives her mother when she has to return the egg to the outdoors? Priceless.



[My Best Friend](#)

by Rob Hodgson

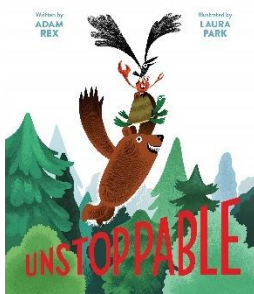
One of those great tongue-in-cheek stories where the narration and illustrations don't quite line up. Hilarious.



[The Very Impatient Caterpillar](#)

by Ross Burach

I rarely read the same book twice in one year, but I had to give this book an encore after the sequel was published. It also earned me one of the best storytime compliments I've ever received. I plan on putting, "Highly distracting" on future resumes.



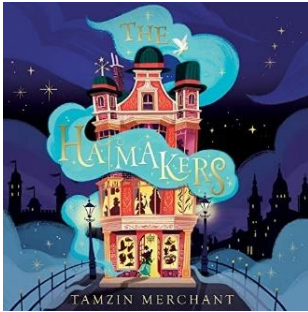
[Unstoppable](#)

by Adam Rex; illustrated by Laura Park

I freely admit that I read this book largely for my own amusement, and I have a sneaking suspicion I was the only one amused! The first time I read it, the bizarre twist at the end had me laughing so hard I nearly cried.

Four Favorite Juvenile Audiobooks

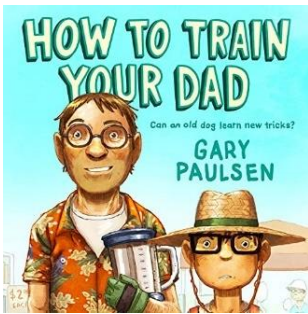
I listened to a ton of fantastic audiobooks in 2021! Here are four of my favorites:



The Hatmakers

written & narrated by Tamzin Merchant

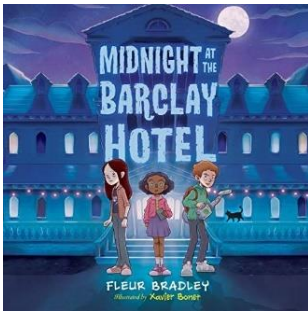
A fun, magical story. Great cast of characters, and equally great narration.



How to Train Your Dad

by Gary Paulsen; narrated by Dan Bittner

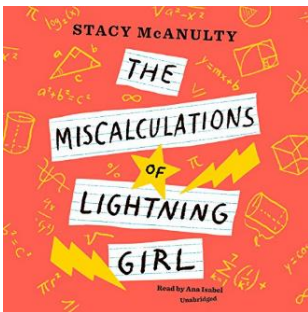
Most people only know Gary Paulsen's book Hatchet and so don't realize he could be a really funny writer, too. Full of humor and warmth, and a narrator who sounds just like a middle school boy.



Midnight at the Barclay Hotel

by Fleur Bradley; narrated by January LaVoy

This book has all the trappings of a great mystery: murder (off scene), red herrings, quirky, suspicious characters, and ghosts. Highly recommended.



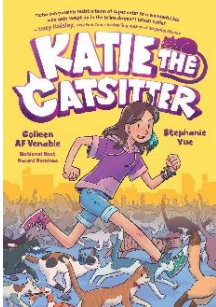
The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

by Stacy McAnulty; narrated by Ana Isabel

Hands down, this was my favorite audiobook of 2021. Hilarious and heartwarming.

Four Favorite Graphic Novels

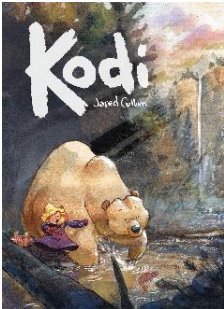
The graphic novel selection just gets better and better every year. It was tough picking out just four for this list!



Katie the Catsitter

by Colleen AF Venable; illustrated by Stephanie Yue

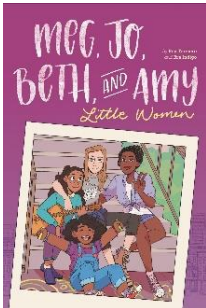
Katie spends the summer catsitting her neighbor's 217 (!!!) cats, all of whom possess...interesting traits. This quickly became my most frequently recommended book! I can't wait for the sequel.



Kodi

by Jared Cullum

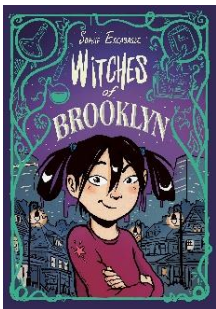
This book will change every pre-conceived notion you have about the genre. This warm story about two unlikely friends has some of the most beautiful illustrations I've ever seen in a graphic novel.



Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy: A Graphic Novel

by Rey Terciero; illustrated by Bre Indigo

One of the best examples of a well-done modern adaption. Many details of the story are different, but the heart of it remains the same. I enjoyed this more than the original book!



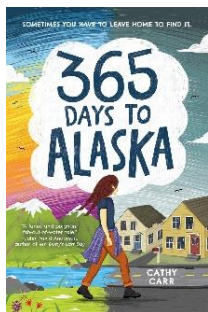
Witches of Brooklyn

by Sophie Escabasse

Fun story about a girl discovering her own mysterious powers. Love the cast of characters!

Four Favorite Juvenile Fiction Novels

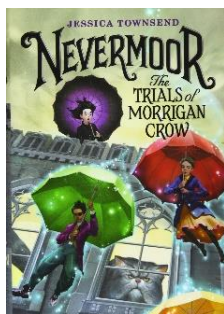
One of the best lessons I learned after the pandemic started is how important it is for me to carve out time during the work week to read some of the great fiction we have on our shelves. Here are four of my favorites of 2021:



365 Days to Alaska

by Cathy Carr

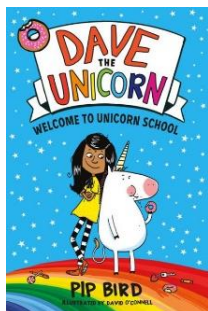
Author Cathy Carr manages to write a “girl from the country moves to the city” story without relying on the cliches so often found in stories like this. I loved watching the main character grow and adapt without completely losing herself in the process.



Nevermoor series

by Jessica Townsend

Like so many books written since Harry Potter was published, this series resembles the Harry Potter books in many ways, yet somehow it manages to be completely unique. I got completely pulled into Morrigan Crow’s world and had no choice but to read every book in existence! Now I’m waiting impatiently for Book 4...



Welcome to Unicorn School

by Pip Bird; illustrated by David O’Connell

Dave the chubby, donut-eating unicorn totally defies the unicorn stereotype in every possible way. I literally laughed out loud the entire time I read this book. I’m so glad it’s a series!



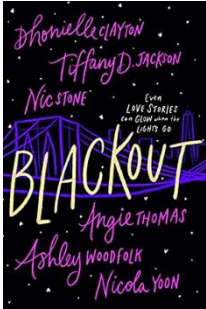
Winterborne Home series

by Ally Carter

Another series I got pulled into! Full of intrigue and mystery, the plot moves along quickly yet doesn’t sacrifice character development in the process. I’m looking forward to future books.

Four Favorite YA Novels

I read and listened to a ton of fantastic YA novels last year! Here are just four of my favorites:



Blackout

by Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, & Nicola Yoon

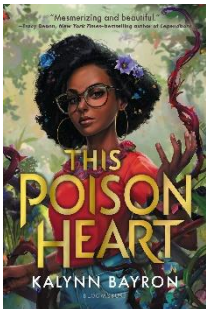
I had high expectations when I saw the list of authors for this book, and I was not disappointed. (The audiobook has an equally great cast of narrators, too! I highly recommend listening to this rather than reading it if you can.) Each short story ties into the others, which I absolutely love in short story collections. Well done.



Super Fake Love Song

by David Yoon

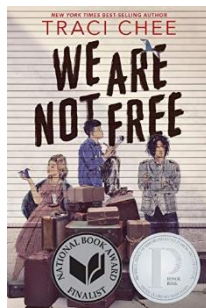
This audiobook was just plain fun. A hard-core nerd fakes being in a rock band to impress a girl. What can possibly go wrong?



This Poison Heart

by Kalynn Bayron

I'm a sucker for myth and fairy tale revisions. When I heard about this book I couldn't resist it, and now I can't wait for the sequel! Intriguing plot, mysterious characters, references to Greek mythology – this book has it all!



We Are Not Free

by Traci Chee

Another fantastic, multi-narrator audiobook. Author Traci Chee's historical fiction novel explores the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII through the eyes of fourteen teens from San Francisco. A heartbreaking, beautiful book.

And One More Makes 21

I came down with a (non-COVID) cold last October, and all I wanted was comfort reads – books I'd read and loved. I revisited a lot of old favorites, but the best of the bunch was definitely...



The Tiffany Aching series

by Terry Pratchett

In my humble opinion, Terry Pratchett is one of the best writers out there. Being a writer of fantasy, though, he's not as well-known as many great authors, which is a shame. Funny, satirical, and insightful, Pratchett was also just a fantastic storyteller, and the Tiffany Aching books are the best example of his work. I have read these books several times already, and I'm sure I will read them again someday. Highly recommended.



Tell us your favorite reads of 2020!

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